

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

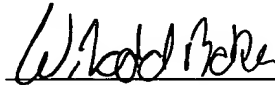
Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19, and 20 are currently active in this case. In the outstanding office action, each of the active claims was rejected as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,451,892 to Bailey. Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion that Bailey is available as 35 USC 102(b) art against Applicant. The Bailey patent issued on July 25, 2000. However, Applicant is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of its parent application 08/124,980 which was filed on September 21, 1993. Hence, Bailey is not available as 35 USC 102(b) art against Applicant.

In view of the preceding remarks, no further issues are believed to be outstanding. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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